

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4294
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
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AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 2812

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECRE, AG, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AWARDED LARGE ALGERIAN
GOVERNMENT CONTRACT TO BUILD DAM AND IRRIGATION PROJECT

1. ON JULY 20 THE STOCKHOLM PRESS REPORTED THAT
BYGGPRODUKTION AB (BPA), A LEADING SWEDISH CONSTRUCTION
COMPANY CONTROLLED BY TRADE UNIONS, HAS BEEN AWARDED AN
ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT ORDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION IN
ALGERIA OF A DAM AND IRRIGATION PROJECT. THE CONTRACT,
SIGNED ON JULY 18, IS SAID TO BE WORTH 750 MILLION
KRONOR, ALLEGEDLY THE LARGEST SINGLE ORDER EVER RECEIVED
BY THE SWEDISH CONSTRUCTION FIRM.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE NEW DAM, CALLED HAREZZA, IS TO
STORE WATER DURING THE PERIOD OF HEAVY RAINS FOR USE IN
IRRIGATING AN AREA OF ABOUT 20,000 HECTARES IN THE
CHELIFF VALLEY OF WESTERN ALGERIA. THE AREA IS INTENDED
FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SUGAR BEETS, OTHER ROOT-CROPS,
AND TOMATOES. ACCORDING TO A BPA OFFICIAL, IRRIGATION
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PIPES TOTALING ABOUT 700 KILOMETERS IN LENGTH WILL BE
LAID THERE.

3. SOME 200 SWEDISH NATIONALS WILL BE WORKING ON THE
PROJECT DURING THE APPROXIMATELY FIVE YEARS IT WILL TAKE
TO COMPLETE. OF THESE, ABOUT 150 WILL BE WORKING IN
ALGERIA AS ENGINEERS, WORK FOREMEN AND TECHNICIANS. THE

REST OF THE MANPOWER WILL CONSIST OF NATIVE ALGERIANS.
WORK ON THE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN DURING
SEPTEMBER 1978.

4. OF THE CONTRACT'S TOTAL VALUE OF 750 MILLION KRONOR,
THE VALUE OF MATERIAL AND SERVICES TO BE SUPPLIED
DIRECTLY BY SWEDEN IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 400 MILLION
KRONOR. A BPA OFFICIAL STATED THAT HIS COMPANY HAD
INITIATED DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SEVERAL
YEARS AGO AND A PRELIMINARY CONTRACT HAD BEEN SIGNED AS
EARLY AS 1974. HOWEVER, THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAD,
FOR SOME REASON, CHANGED ITS PRIORITIES AND DEFERRED THE
PROJECT UNTIL NOW.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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